

**PATENT**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

(Attorney Docket No.: 109878.126)

Applicant(s): Ferrari, et al.  
Serial No.: 09/998,682  
Filed: October 31, 2001  
For: HIERARCHICAL DATA-DRIVEN NAVIGATION  
SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR INFORMATION RETRIEVAL

Group Art Unit: 2171

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

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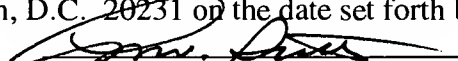
OCT 29 2002

Technology Center 2100

**CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8(a)**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on the date set forth below.

10-22-02  
Date

  
Anthony W. Sutton

**FOURTH INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
**WITH STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1)**

Commissioner:

Applicants and their attorney are aware of the following publications and information listed on the attached PTO Form 1449, and in accordance with 37 CFR §1.97 hereby submit these publications for the Examiner's consideration.

Applicant states under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)(1) that the publications were cited in an International Search Report issued in connection with a counterpart Patent Cooperation Treaty application No. PCT/US01/17046 not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement. A copy of the International Search Report is also enclosed for the Examiner's review.

It is respectfully requested that the information above be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application and that the publications be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom. In this regard, it is requested that the Examiner initial and return a copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 with the next Patent Office Communication.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made and does not constitute an admission that the listed documents are material to patentability or that the listed documents are prior art. If it should be determined that any of the listed documents do not constitute "prior

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art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.


Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits and is therefore submitted as both timely and proper; therefore, no fees are believed to be due.

The Commissioner, however, is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0219. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed for that purpose.

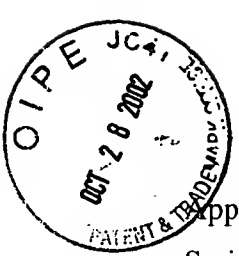
Respectfully submitted,

Date: 10/22/02

  
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PATENTS

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**TRANSMITTAL LETTER**

Commissioner:

Enclosed for filing in the above-identified patent application are the following documents:

- 1.) Fourth Information Disclosure Statement;
- 2.) Form PTO-1449, including 5 documents;
- 3.) Copy of the International Search Report from PCT/US01/17046; and
- 4.) Return Postcard.

Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in connection with this matter to Deposit account No. 08-0219.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 10/22/02

Ayla A. Lari

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